

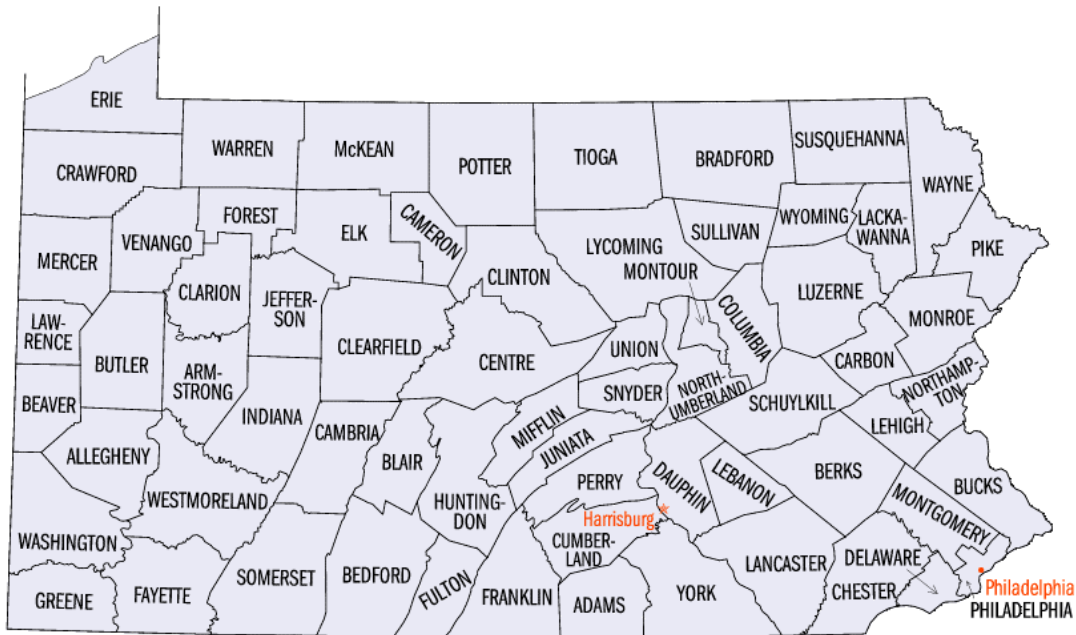
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 1,517,550
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 42.5% white; 42.6% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.4% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 8.5% Hispanic/Latino
- Philadelphia is located in Philadelphia County.

Politics

- Mayor: John F. Street²
- City Council (Districts 1-10, respectively): Frank DiCicco; Anna Verna; Jannie Blackwell; Michael Nutter; Darrell Clarke; Joan Krajewski; Richard Mariano; Donna Reed Miller; Marian Tasco; Brian O'Neill³
- Police Commissioner: Sylvester Johnson⁴
- Sheriff, City and County of Philadelphia: John D. Green⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in 1995, the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA is responsible for Philadelphia County and Camden, New Jersey. Philadelphia remains a center of activity for the importation, wholesale distribution, and street level sales of illegal drugs on the East Coast. Camden, separated from Philadelphia by the Delaware River, is a focal point for drug trafficking from Philadelphia and the New York area. The location of Philadelphia and Camden on the eastern seaboard, particularly their proximity to New York City, places them on one of the busiest illegal drug transit routes.
- Junior Posse⁷
In October 1988, the Sheriff's Junior Posse Program was initiated to promote drug-free attitudes among school-aged youth. As part of the program, youths are taught the importance of resisting peer pressure to take part in illegal activities.
- Heads-Up Drug Prevention Program⁸
Developed by the Philadelphia Police Department Narcotics Bureau, the Heroin Education and Dangerous Substance Understanding Program ("Heads-Up") attacks drug problems from a prevention standpoint. The program is geared towards children and families to teach them about the dangers of drugs.
- Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network (PAAN)⁹
PAAN impacts upon the drug and violence problems that plague Philadelphia neighborhoods by promoting community safety through direct services and by developing positive alternatives for youths.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program¹⁰

Since FY 1998, only one community coalition in Philadelphia has received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. In FY 1999, Woodrock, Inc., a coalition involving community youth, adults, professionals, and non-profit agencies in northern Philadelphia, was awarded \$99,792.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹

Three areas in Philadelphia have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to agencies/organizations in Philadelphia:¹²
 - Center for Mental Health Services:
 - \$619,000 to the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Project period: 9/30/1998-9/29/2002.
 - \$800,000 to the National Mental Health Consumers Self-Help Clearinghouse to provide assistance with technical issues. The project period is 12/1/1998-9/29/2002.
 - \$380,000 to the University of Pennsylvania to address the care of older individuals with co-occurring disorders. The project period was 9/30/1999-8/31/2002.
 - \$591,441 to the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - \$692,320 to Temple University for the High-Risk Youth - Project Connect program. The project period was 12/1/1998-5/31/2002.
 - \$394,175 to the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$394,175 to Temple University to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Across Ages mentoring program. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$357,000 to the Family Planning Council to be used for the Teen Parents and Welfare Reform program. The project period is 9/30/1998-9/29/2002.
 - \$438,272 to the Treatment Research Institute for the Community Initiated Intervention program. The project period is 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
 - \$498,765 to the city of Philadelphia to enhance outpatient treatment of opiate dependant adults. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$329,745 to the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation for HIV/AIDS outreach. The project period is 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$397,671 to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to create a program for people with co-occurring disorders. The project period is 9/30/2000-9/29/2003.
- Philadelphia did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹³
- Philadelphia did not receive any funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁴

- Philadelphia did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.¹⁵
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Philadelphia:¹⁶
 - Discretionary - \$9,199,326
 - Formula - \$5,845,947

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 24,845 people arrested in Philadelphia for committing narcotics violations during 2001. Of those arrested, 2,341 were non-residents and 2,447 were juveniles.¹⁷
- Preliminary data indicate that there were 41,050 index offenses known to police in Philadelphia from January to June 2002.¹⁸ During full year 2001, there were 93,878 index offenses known to the Philadelphia police.¹⁹

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Philadelphia, 1998-June 2002

Offense	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Murder	338	292	319	309	138
Rape	752	934*	1,021	1,014	502
Robbery	11,435	11,104	10,425	9,604	4,138
Aggravated assault	8,701	10,701*	11,047	10,477	5,007
Burglary	15,437	14,042	12,089	11,629	5,520
Theft	49,892	49,874	46,952	45,318	19,228
Motor vehicle theft	19,523	17,711	16,147	15,527	6,517
Crime index total	106,078	104,658	98,000	93,878	not avail.

* The increase reflected in these totals is associated with changes in the Police Department's recordation and classification of crime data.

- Data for Philadelphia adult male arrestees indicate that 71% tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests during 2001. 42.7% tested positive for marijuana; 36.7% tested positive for cocaine; 13.2% tested positive for opiates; 6.9% tested positive for PCP; 0.0% tested positive for methamphetamine; and 25.7% tested positive for multiple drugs.²⁰
- Approximately half of adult male arrestees in Philadelphia reported using marijuana within the past month. The marijuana users used the substance an average of 10.7 days within the month.²¹

Adult Male Arrestee Past Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	20.2%	9.9%	45.5%	0.1%	10.8%
Past 30 days	21.9%	11.4%	49.8%	0.2%	12.0%
Past year	23.7%	13.5%	55.3%	0.5%	12.7%
Avg. # of days used in month	10.8	5.5	10.7	1.4	13.2

- In 1999, 76.0% of adult female and 69.8% of adult male arrestees in Philadelphia tested positive for drugs at arrest. 85.6% of male arrestees who had committed a drug offense tested positive for drugs at arrest.²²

Percent of Arrestees Positive for Drugs, by Offense and Gender, Philadelphia, 1999

Offense	<u>Cocaine</u>		<u>Marijuana</u>		<u>PCP</u>		<u>Any Drug</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	21.6	37.5	33.3	27.1	5.4	2.1	50.5	54.2
Property	40.2	30.2	43.8	26.4	5.4	1.9	70.5	52.8
Drug	46.3	53.4	49.8	37.9	8.5	1.7	85.6	84.5
Sales	46.2	39.1	56.4	47.8	12.0	0.0	81.2	69.6
Possession	46.2	52.6	49.7	36.8	8.0	1.8	85.9	84.2
Prostitution	55.6	95.9	33.3	18.9	0.0	0.0	66.7	98.6
Other	35.7	53.2	25.7	17.7	3.6	3.2	52.9	66.1

Drugs

- Cocaine

The crack cocaine available in Philadelphia is approximately eighty percent pure. Depending on size, crack rocks typically cost between \$5 and \$50. One gram of powder cocaine costs \$120-\$125 and is 60-80% pure.²³ Whites are the predominate users of powder cocaine in Philadelphia.²⁴
- Heroin

Pulse Check sources indicate that heroin is widely available in Philadelphia and ranges in purity from 40% to 95%. The price for a gram of heroin ranges from \$75 to \$300.²⁵ A bundle of heroin (10-13 bags) typically costs between \$100 and \$120. Philadelphia suburbanites often purchase heroin from central city dealers and resell it in the suburbs. Philadelphia heroin users are typically age 18 and older. Heroin snorting has risen due to increased purity.²⁶
- Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is considered “not very” to “somewhat” available in Philadelphia, where a gram costs \$100 and is usually less than 25% pure.²⁷ Adults over age 30 are reported to be the predominant methamphetamine users in Philadelphia.²⁸
- Marijuana

While most of the marijuana available in Philadelphia is not grown locally, the number of indoor hydroponic growing operations has increased. One ounce of commercial marijuana costs \$150-\$200. The blunt wrap, a new product introduced in Philadelphia in 2001, is a tobacco leaf that is moister, fresher, slower burning, and less messy than gutted cigars. A five-pack of blunt wraps sells for \$2 on the Internet and in stores, and one wrap sells for \$1 on street corners. Blunt wraps come in several flavors, including vanilla, chocolate, and honey. The number of younger people initiating marijuana use in Philadelphia is increasing.²⁹
- Club Drugs

MDMA is being used in combination with cough syrup in Philadelphia. In Spring 2002, an ecstasy pill cost between \$15 and \$35 in Philadelphia, a vial of ketamine cost \$10-\$20, and a tab of LSD cost \$3-\$5.³⁰ In Fall 2001, a vial (one dose) of GHB cost \$10-\$20, one Rohypnol pill cost \$10, and one dose of nitrous oxide cost \$5.³¹

➤ **Other Drugs**

OxyContin abuse and diverted sales continue to emerge in the rave and nightclub scene in Philadelphia. However, media coverage and publicity, increased law enforcement focus, and arrests of key violators may have made potential OxyContin diverters reconsider selling the drug. OxyContin is in great demand by heroin users because it eliminates the need for needles and comes in a controlled measured amount, so users do not have to worry about adulterants.³²

Juveniles

- Results from a 2001 survey of high school students in Philadelphia indicate that approximately forty-three percent of students reported using marijuana at least one time during their lives.³³

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.7%	43.9%	48.1%	52.6%	42.7%
Past month marijuana use	16.5	23.5	23.4	26.5	21.4
Lifetime cocaine use	2.8	2.0	1.9	3.9	2.6
Past month cocaine use	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.3
Lifetime inhalant use	8.4	6.3	6.3	5.6	6.9
Past month inhalant use	2.4	1.5	2.5	0.6	1.8
Lifetime heroin use	3.2	1.2	2.7	3.0	2.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.4	5.8	2.7	7.4	4.6
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	4.5	2.7	4.5	5.0	4.1
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.7	1.4	2.2	1.7	1.3

Enforcement

➤ **Operation Sunrise³⁴**

Beginning in June 1998 in conjunction with Federal and State law enforcement agencies, the Philadelphia Police Department developed Operation Sunrise to target drug trafficking and violent crime in the Kensington and eastern North Philadelphia neighborhoods of the city. Due to the drug activity and crime in the 3.5 mile target area, it was labeled “The Badlands.” Uniform and plainclothes officers aggressively pursue and disrupt street sales of illicit drugs and dismantle drug trafficking organizations in this area.

➤ **Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Initiatives in Philadelphia:³⁵**

- **Hotel Interdiction Project:** Members of this task force interdict drugs and money entering and leaving the Philadelphia area through various hotels in and around the city.
- **Philadelphia/Camden Seaport Task Force:** This task force targets inbound cargo shipments and vessels from narcotics source and transshipment countries.
- **Philadelphia Mass Transportation Interdiction Unit:** Members of this unit target domestic drug transportation organizations that use area transportation routes to smuggle drugs into and transport drug proceeds out of the region.
- **Additional Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA initiatives include the following:** Criminal Conspiracy Squad; Narco-Dollar Task Force; Parcel Squad Initiative;

Philadelphia District Attorney and Police Department HIDTA Centerpiece Task Force; Violent Crimes/Fugitive Task Force; and the Regional Investigative Support Center.

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 7,867 full time law enforcement employees working in Philadelphia.³⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- Major interstate rail and highway systems, a major international airport, and key shipping terminals on the 100 miles of waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the Philadelphia/Camden region.³⁷
- Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through the Port of Philadelphia/Camden, the second largest seaport in the nation.³⁸
- Major New York drug trafficking organizations use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for drugs, drug proceeds, and illegal guns.³⁹

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁰
As of January 8, 2003, there was one drug court in existence in Philadelphia. No additional drug courts were being planned.

Corrections

- On June 30, 2002, there were 7,913 inmates in the Philadelphia prison system. For nearly half of the inmates (3,817 inmates or 48.24% of all inmates), the most serious offense committed was a drug offense.⁴¹
- Opportunities for Prevention and Treatment Interventions for Offenders Needing Support (OPTIONS)⁴²
The OPTIONS program provides addiction treatment services to inmates in intensive residential units (therapeutic communities) and in moderate outpatient units. An average of 829 inmates participated in OPTIONS each month during FY 2001.
- Forensic Intensive Recovery (FIR)⁴³
The FIR program is an early-parole and re-parole program designed to provide community-based drug and alcohol treatment as an alternative to incarceration. The goals of the FIR program are to reduce prison overcrowding, decrease recidivism, and enhance community safety. Evaluations have shown that FIR clients who complete at least six months of treatment are re-convicted at a rate of 44-66% less than non-participants.
- Rational Emotive Spiritual Therapy (REST)⁴⁴
The REST program is a spiritual counseling program provided by trained volunteers from the faith-based community working in conjunction with prison staff, chaplains, and other volunteers. The goal of the REST program is to help inmates break self-destructive habits, including drug and alcohol abuse.
- During FY 2001, the Philadelphia Prison System Canine Drug Detection Unit conducted 501 searches. Drugs valued at \$4,400 were found and confiscated.⁴⁵

Consequences of Use

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 13,761 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in Philadelphia from January to June 2002. During full year 2001, there were 25,790 ED drug episodes.⁴⁶

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Philadelphia, 1998-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Alcohol-in-combin.	8,565	8,815	8,331	9,228	4,799
Cocaine	13,048	12,434	10,497	11,358	6,247
Heroin	3,445	4,087	4,661	5,362	2,441
Marijuana	5,302	5,465	4,928	5,496	3,441
Amphetamines	361	444	489	400	126
Methamphetamine	48	47	67	60	32
MDMA (Ecstasy)	27	89	141	203	89
Ketamine	--	5	23	--	--
LSD	76	121	104	74	7
PCP	573	580	604	785	569
Miscell. hallucinogens	22	53	38	27	22
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
GHB	--	53	79	90	--
Inhalants	27	81	32	42	16
Total ED drug episodes	24,924	24,413	23,431	25,790	13,761
Total ED drug mentions	45,593	45,659	44,385	48,222	25,539

- During 2001, there were 492 drug-related deaths in Philadelphia County.⁴⁷

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Philadelphia County, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	160	137	144	194	169
Cocaine	326	276	293	310	284
Heroin/morphine	380	272	254	319	266
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--
Amphetamines	9	4	9	3	10
Methamphetamine	13	4	5	3	5
Club drugs	1	--	6	5	13
Hallucinogens	25	24	22	25	30
Inhalants	2	--	1	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	311	221	271	348	277
Other analgesics	40	27	10	12	14
Benzodiazepines	80	95	58	72	94
Antidepressants	94	170	127	156	161
All other substances	198	212	203	234	229
Total drug deaths	554	467	453	528	492
Total drug mentions	1,639	1,442	1,403	1,681	1,552

Treatment

- The Philadelphia Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs has developed specialized treatment programs to serve the following populations:⁴⁸
 - dually-diagnosed (substance abuse and mental health problems)
 - women and women with children
 - Latinos
 - adolescents
 - criminal justice clients
 - persons with AIDS
 - homeless persons
- In FY 2001, there were 9,857 admissions to State-supported drug and alcohol treatment facilities in Philadelphia County.⁴⁹

Clients Receiving Treatment, by Primary Diagnosis, Philadelphia County, FY 2001

Primary Diagnosis	Clients
Drug abuse	7,121
Alcohol abuse	2,422
Other*	314
Total admissions	9,857

*Includes family members receiving counseling.

- There are 137 licensed drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Philadelphia County.⁵⁰

Number of Treatment Facilities, Philadelphia County, FY 2001

Type of Service Provided	Number of Facilities
Inpatient non-hospital	47
Inpatient hospital	15
Partial hospital	3
Outpatient	99
All facilities	137

- During the second half of 2000, forty-five percent of those receiving treatment in Philadelphia reported that cocaine was their primary substance of abuse.⁵¹

Primary Substance of Abuse, Philadelphia, Second Half 2000

Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana	Stimulants
45%	26%	23%	<1%

- Among male cocaine treatment admissions in 2000, seventy-nine percent reported smoking the drug compared with 88% of females.⁵²

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